

Waterloo, Iowa January 14, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Black Hawk, in the State of Iowa, met in regular adjourned meeting at the Courthouse in Waterloo, County Seat of said County, and electronically via Zoom, at nine o'clock (9:00) a.m., pursuant to law, to the rules of said Board, and to adjournment. The meeting was called to order and on roll call there were present: Linda Laylin, Tom Little, Chris Schwartz, Craig White and Dan Trelka, Chair.

Absent: None.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

Moved by White, seconded by Schwartz that the AGENDA be received and place on file with the County Auditor as approved. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION – The Board considered various aspects of the FY22 Black Hawk County Budget. Koleen presented the Community Services budget.

Health Department Director Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye and Reverend Dr. Mary Robinson, Chair of the Board of Health, presented the Health Department budget. Egbuonye reviewed the past year, in particular the Health Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Her budget showed a \$140,353 increase in operating expenses, and a total tax asking increase of \$170,920, or 5.24%. Little said that departments had been asked to bring a budget showing no operating increase. Schwartz said he wanted to see a budget based on serving community needs. Egbuonye said this is the minimum she could request and still provide necessary services. Little said that in the past the Health Department used funds budgeted for positions that remained unfilled to buy cars and computers. Egbuonye said that she has been told that once the Health Department's budget is approved, it is only required to stay within the total amount, and that she got the Board of Health approval for expenditures and informed the Board of Supervisors. Little agreed that the Board of Health has that authority, but that the supervisors, who must answer to the taxpayers, have the authority to restrict future budgets if they disapprove of past budget practices. Trelka said that other departments are affected by the pandemic too, and a 5.24% increase was too much for him, but he didn't want to micromanage departments and he would want Egbuonye to make reductions. Schwartz said that the Health Department is in the forefront of the county's response to the pandemic, and he can't support a budget that doesn't support the Health Department. White said that money is being thrown at the pandemic at all levels and it hasn't solved very much and the supervisors have to answer to the taxpayers. Egbuonye said that the same taxpayers who call the supervisors to complain about their taxes call the Health Department about their needs, and the county needs a unified response to taxpayers about the importance of investing tax dollars in public health. Laylin said she would like to see the whole budget before making any cuts. Egbuonye said the budget is as lean as she can make it, and any further reductions would have to be identified by the supervisors.

Robinson said that various issues need more clarity, and she thought there should be another joint meeting between the two boards. A joint meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 20 at 2 pm. The Board took a five minute recess at 10:35 am.

Upon reconvening, the Board considered the County Compensation Board's recommendation of a 3.5% salary increase for all elected officials. Finance Director Perry said that he included a 3% placeholder in the budget, since that is what bargaining employees will be getting per their contract. White said he would like to see lower paid employees get larger raises than those with the top salaries.

Little moved the following resolution seconded by Laylin.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED to approve a 3% increase in salaries for all elected officials in FY22, which is a 14.3% reduction of the County Compensation Board's recommendation of a 3.5% increase.

AYES: Laylin, Little, Schwartz, Trelka.

NAYS: White. Resolution adopted.

The Board considered capital requests from County Attorney, Building Maintenance, and Information Technology. IT Director Kim Veeder said that several of her requests were based on recommendations by the Iowa Counties Information Technology Assessment Team that evaluated the county's IT services (in an aggregate amount of \$124,828), and the Board could delay all or part of those items. After discussing pros and cons, the Board decided to vote on this item in isolation.

Moved by Trelka, seconded by Little to approve \$124,828 in Information Technology capital expenditures for items recommended by the Iowa Counties Information Technology Assessment Team. Motion carried.

The Board considered capital requests from County Conservation, Department of Human Services, and County Engineer. Perry said that the Engineer's capital items didn't affect the tax levy. Little said that Secondary Roads funds not spent on equipment are available for road and bridge projects, and can theoretically reduce borrowing for such projects. He thought that considering that the department's recent requests have all been approved, there could be a reduction this year.

Moved by Trelka, seconded by Laylin to approve the FY22 Secondary Roads capital expenditure request.

AYES: Laylin, Schwartz, Trelka.

NAYS: Little, White. Motion carried.

Perry said that this the total capital request now stood at \$3,312,403.

Moved by Trelka, seconded by Laylin to approve the overall capital equipment request amounting to \$3,312,403.

AYES: Laylin, Schwartz, White, Trelka.

NAYS: Little. Motion carried.

The Board continued its consideration of Board Agencies, which it began on January 12.

Moved by Schwartz, seconded by White to allocate \$8,000 to Friends of Iowa.

AYES: Schwartz, Trelka, White.

NAYS: Laylin, Little. Motion carried.

Moved by Little, seconded by Trelka to allocate \$15,000 for Iowa Legal Aid.

AYES: Little, White. Trelka.
NAYS: Laylin, Schwartz. Motion carried.

Moved by Schwartz, seconded by Laylin to allocate \$33,000 for Northeast Iowa Food Bank.
AYES: Laylin, Little, Schwartz, White, Trelka.
NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Moved by White, seconded by Schwartz to allocate \$15,000 to North Star Community Services.
AYES: Laylin, Little, Schwartz, White, Trelka.
NAYS: None. Motion carried.
Moved by Little, seconded by White to allocate \$5,000 to Riverview Center.
AYES: Laylin, Little, Schwartz, White, Trelka.
NAYS: None. Motion carried.

On motion and vote the meeting adjourned.

Dan Trelka, Chair, Board of Supervisors

Grant Veeder, County Auditor